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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT First Quarter 1954 Mineral Production/Blast Furnace and Coke Plant Construction at Zenica/Kidričevu Aluminum Plant Completed/Amalgamation and Reconstruction of Copper Mines

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1. "Metal Production Lower--Last year's [1953] big increase in the production of basic metals was restricted by the winter drought which caused a great power shortage. February 1954 was the worst with metal production dropping to one third of 1953's average.

	Lead Refined	Copper Electrolytic	Zinc Crude	Aluminium Ingots	Antimony Regulus	Silver
Jan-Apr 54	18,729 t	7,236 t	4,542 t	822 t	464 t	28 t

2. "The Celje Zinc Smelters (Slovenia) had a further mishap: in June 1954 they were flooded so that production was delayed for half a month. The copper production will probably be normal in the coming months, but lead and zinc production for 1954 will probably lag behind the production of 1953.

3. "WEMCO HM Separator--The lead-zinc ore mines at Međica (Slovenia) have installed a WEMCO heavy media separator, which has been in operation since May 1954, giving very satisfactory results. Ferrosilicon ground to below 0.2 mm Ø is being used as suspenside, the density of the medium is approximately 2.7. The separator has a capacity of 1600 t/day, the size of the feed is 2 to 50 mm Ø. The ferrosilicon loss has not been ascertained, but a loss of 80 to 100 g/t ore is anticipated. Thus the capacity of the flotation plant has been doubled. The plant now treats low-grade mine ore as well as old waste dumps with economic results.

4. "Iron and Coke--At Zenica (Bosnia) three big iron blast furnaces are under construction [] each having a capacity of 600 t pig iron/day. The first starts production in August 1954, the second is nearing completion; foundations are finished for the third. The Greenwalt roaster is not ready yet.

5. "The coke works at Lukovac (Bosnia) have two batteries and are producing 800 t coke/day. Coke coal is being imported. Additions of domestic soft coal and lignite have been tried out, but results have not been published..

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6. "At Zenica a four-battery coke plant is under construction; the first battery is being heated up. The possibility of building a third coke plant is verified. Sisak, Rjeka and Split (Croatia), Nikšić (Montenegro) and Skopje (Macedonia) are being considered as locations [redacted]
7. "Aluminium Plant--The new alumina and aluminium plant at Kidričevu near Ptuj (Slovenia) is completed. Building started in 1942, but was delayed for several years. The plant has a capacity of 45 thousand tons alumina/year and will have a production, when completed, of 30 thousand tons aluminium/year (15 thousand tons alumina will come from other producers).
8. "This plant is the second plant to work using towers for the decomposition of bauxite (Fulda and Wittig, Pat 1938). This process was first carried out at the VAW* plant at Lünen, Westfalia, from 1940-44. Also the sintering process, using sodium carbonate, is included in this alumina plant. The plant is being started up and normal alumina production is expected at the end of June 1954. The aluminium plant now has 160 pots (Elektrokemisk Oslo), 160 pots will be added later. In July 1954 160 pots will start producing metal; production will be increased later when some power plants under construction will be finished.
9. "The Bor Copper Mines (East Serbia) and the Majdanpek Pyrite and Copper Mines (40 km north of Bor) are being reconstructed and developed under one management. A loan of US\$18 million from the US and France is available for this. The flotation plant at Bor is being enlarged from four thousand tons to seven thousand tons per day. Blast furnace smelting will be abandoned. Standard reverberatory furnaces or Finish-furnaces (suspension roasting and reduction), or wet processes are under consideration. Sulphuric acid made from gasses will be transported by rail to Prahovo on the Danube to new chemical factories.
10. "The Svetozarevo cable factory (Serbia) is completed and started rolling concrete reinforcing bars as copper is short. The Sevojno rolling plant (west Serbia) has induction furnaces, continuous casting apparatus for copper and brass, extrusion presses and rolling mills. Operation is just beginning."

* Vereinigte Aluminium Werke

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